BULLETIN FROM

Virginia Kirkus' Bookshop Service 439 East 51st Street

Vol. V. December 15, 1937 No. 24

MUST BOOKS

Fiction

February 11

Ferber, Edna — NOBODY'S IN TOWN — Doubleday, Doran

* Good - but not top. Two long stories, novelettes, the first the title story; the second, *Trees Die At The Tops*. *Nobody's In Town* gives a cross section of the New York that stays in town through the summer, as seen through the fragmentary candid camera shots of the man whose wife and child have gone abroad, of the colored girl who "does for him" and her lover, who plays in a Harlem band, of the green grocer who must be a step ahead of his competitors, and the tricks of his trade, of the garbage collector and the bottle of champagne that turned him from a yes-man to the head of his prospective ménage. Vignettes, with Edna Ferber's gift for getting at the human aspects of her characters. The second story is somewhat of a thesis story. An old man is dying. He does not tamper with his will which makes his heirs rich, but he does pull the strings while he is on the verge of death, and summons all of them to his bedside, to make them cross the continent, just once, over the trail their forbears took as pioneers. The story parallels the old way - and the new. The Ferber name will sell, particularly as she is no neophant in the shorter forms of fiction. Good for rentals, as against the average short. $2.00

February 15

Faulkner, William — THE UNVANQUISHED — Random House

This is a puzzler. It reads as though someone had told Faulkner to cut out the smut and the dirty words, with the result that all the virility of his story disappears. Apparently, he needs the props, to give seeming substance and reality. An emasculated story of the Civil War, with a grand old gal as central figure - better in conception than execution. For months she tricked the Yankees by securing mules and horses on false warrants, and reselling them to other Yankees. But eventually, her deeds gave her away and she suffered the ultimate penalty. The balance of the story follows her grandson, aged fifteen, and his Negro playmate, their revenge and a second revenge when the boy's father is killed. Somehow the story doesn't quite come off. But at that, it is the first easily understood story Faulkner has written for some time, and that - plus his name - may win him new readers. $2.50

A Few Good Names For The Till

Helen Simpson UNDER CAPRICORN - Macmillan) and Mary Borden (STRANGE WEEK-END - Harper) are fairly dependable though not best sellers. Kelland always rolls up good sales and rentals, and STAR RISING (Harper) is a good bet. This is also true for Faith Baldwin's ENCHANTED OASIS (Farrar & Rinehart). Dark horses conspicuous by their absence. See below for reports.

BULLETIN FROM

Virginia Kirkus' Bookshop Service 439 East 51st Street

Vol. V. December 15, 1937 No. 24

MUST BOOKS

Fiction

February 11

Ferber, Edna — NOBODY'S IN TOWN — Doubleday, Doran

* Good - but not top. Two long stories, novelettes, the first the title story; the second, *Trees Die At The Tops*. *Nobody's In Town* gives a cross section of the New York that stays in town through the summer, as seen through the fragmentary candid camera shots of the man whose wife and child have gone abroad, of the colored girl who "does for him" and her lover, who plays in a Harlem band, of the green grocer who must be a step ahead of his competitors, and the tricks of his trade, of the garbage collector and the bottle of champagne that turned him from a yes-man to the head of his prospective ménage. Vignettes, with Edna Ferber's gift for getting at the human aspects of her characters. The second story is somewhat of a thesis story. An old man is dying. He does not tamper with his will which makes his heirs rich, but he does pull the strings while he is on the verge of death, and summons all of them to his bedside, to make them cross the continent, just once, over the trail their forbears took as pioneers. The story parallels the old way - and the new. The Ferber name will sell, particularly as she is no neophant in the shorter forms of fiction. Good for rentals, as against the average short. $2.00

February 15

Faulkner, William — THE UNVANQUISHED — Random House

This is a puzzler. It reads as though someone had told Faulkner to cut out the smut and the dirty words, with the result that all the virility of his story disappears. Apparently, he needs the props, to give seeming substance and reality. An emasculated story of the Civil War, with a grand old gal as central figure - better in conception than execution. For months she tricked the Yankees by securing mules and horses on false warrants, and reselling them to other Yankees. But eventually, her deeds gave her away and she suffered the ultimate penalty. The balance of the story follows her grandson, aged fifteen, and his Negro playmate, their revenge and a second revenge when the boy's father is killed. Somehow the story doesn't quite come off. But at that, it is the first easily understood story Faulkner has written for some time, and that - plus his name - may win him new readers. $2.50

A Few Good Names For The Till

Helen Simpson UNDER CAPRICORN - Macmillan) and Mary Borden (STRANGE WEEK-END - Harper) are fairly dependable though not best sellers. Kelland always rolls up good sales and rentals, and STAR RISING (Harper) is a good bet. This is also true for Faith Baldwin's ENCHANTED OASIS (Farrar & Rinehart). Dark horses conspicuous by their absence. See below for reports.

PROBLEMATICAL BOOKS - *Fiction*

January 3

Frankau, Gilbert THE DANGEROUS YEARS Dutton

This is one of those anomalies; it's out but it isn't published - officially - until January. In other words, get what sales you can before Christmas, but count on publisher backing and cooperation the first of the year, with full, pages in metropolitan papers, giant books, five color posters, imprinted postcards. This gives you a double chance, so make the most of it. It is good Frankau, and he staged quite a comeback with *Three Englishmen*, so it ought to be easy. A study of the power of English traditions in the story of a family - country people, on the surface unimpeachable. The father goes down on the Titanic; the mother carries through life the secret of her youngest son's paternity, and is punished by seeing his father's weaknesses come to the surface, and betray them all. The eldest son carries on the family traditions, and covers up for the others. Pre-war, post-war, and today - spanned in the story of two generations. Not important - but good reading. $2.50

January 17

Taber, Gladys THIS IS FOR ALWAYS Macrae Smith

Trash - but good of its kind. Rich young girl - poor young boy - family gets youth out of the way by putting him on a tough assignment in a northern lumber camp, where he makes good. Pretty thin but smooth in the telling. Rental libraries. $2.00

January 18

Simpson, Helen UNDER CAPRICORN Macmillan

A better than readable tale - this story of Australia of a century ago, with its social conditions gauged on the population made up of convicts, natives, English officials, and mystery casuals. The neer-do-well cousin of the earnest new governor, gets into hot water, and then goes off on a tangent, his imagination fired by the tragedy of the ex-groom, Flusky, ex-convict and now one of the town's prosperous citizens, and his beautiful wife, Lady Hattie, a drunkard and wreck. This ought to appeal to the market of *Pageant*. $2.50

January 19

Kelland, Clarance Budington STAR RISING Harper

A slick tale, for the rental library crowd who reads for sheer entertainment. Story of an orphan, raised by a group of men, who goes to the big city to become an actress, becomes notorious for her wise cracks and her friends, and - when chance is given her to make good, becomes involved in a murder investigation. There's a mystery which is ultimately solved, and which gives the story a double appeal to those of the mystery fans who like more story than mystery. Ran in Cosmopolitan. $2.00

January 20

Brande, Dorothea MY INVINCIBLE AUNT Farrar & Rinehart

A best seller in another field - *Wake Up and Live* - turns to fiction with a readable story. A success story of a woman who suddenly determined to make good -

and found in success a ladder to a spiritual vocation. A picture of a likeable, shrewd woman, a simple soul, influenced by others, when it suited her purpose, and in her uprooting led to a sort of madness. The story is told through the loving, appreciative but unsympathetic eyes of her niece. Would have been improved by pruning. $2.50

~~January 21~~ Feb 10

Vernon, Elizabeth TONY McBride

Fairy tale pattern, with a few innovations, smoothly written, designed for the upper cut light fiction readers. Tony at sixteen is considered unmanageable and is fired from boarding school. Her sister's fiancé, Alan, takes her in hand, but the sister interferes, separates her from the little sister - the one person she cares for - and is ultimately revealed as callous and selfish, when she jilts Alan after he is crippled by a fall in hunting. There are thorny paths for all concerned, but Tony and Alan ultimately find each other. The tricks of the tale are fairly obvious but it's a better than average story, at that. Rentals primarily. $2.00

January 23

Lee, Jonathan THE FATE OF THE GROSVENOR Covici, Friede

A gruesome story, possibly based on fact, of the wreck of an East Indiaman off the coast of Africa, of 100 lost souls, and the ultimate survival of eight who made their way, against insuperable difficulties, over desert and through jungle, starved, parched with thirst, attacked by natives, ill, - ultimately reaching their goal. A few figures stand out from the others - perhaps the most sympathetic picture is that of the steward and the little boy who trusted him. A sort of "Men Against the Land" theme - and if true, almost as worthy of fame as an achievement against terrific odds. $2.75

January 26

Gilligan, Edmund BOUNDARY AGAINST NIGHT Farrar & Rinehart

There's enough substance for two full length novels, at least; and enough moods and styles for a half dozen more. The man can write - some day he may get himself orientated, with wise direction. Meantime, he has written a story that is good on its hard-boiled side (but shocking for your conservatives); good on his analytical side; good in his somewhat poetic appreciation of the countryside; but mawkish, melodramatic, and symbolic in a pseudo-Joycian vein. There's a full-blooded vitality - but no coordination in tone or content. Coventry, born Back Bay Boston, is blinded by the war, goes into the slums, chums with a roustabout Irish policeman, picks up with a Sudbury family who are scarcely balanced - and gets involved in the Boston police strike, with subsequent mass rape and murder. Watch the man! - but 'ware this book. $2.75

Announcing for January 27

Passos, John Dos U. S. A. Harcourt, Brace

Omnibus volume, at reasonable price, containing *The 42nd Parallel*, *Nineteen Nineteen* and *The Big Money*. These three allied novels forming the trilogy, were written over a considerable span of years, so bringing them together as one is a definite contribution to the Dos Passos picture. $3.00

~~February 2~~ January 19

Borden, Mary STRANGE WEEK-END Harper

* This appeared in England under the title *Black Virgin*. It is not a pleasant book and the picture it gives of society disintegrating under the strain of unstable emotions, unsound moral values, insecurity of financial set-up, tragedy of economic unrest, is scarcely compensated for by the note of re-integration sounded at the end. The story follows the lives of a group of people brought together for a sort of last fling before the deluge - the Christmas week-end, with the host, an under secretary and his mistress, the hostess and the American millionaire she had summoned to elope with her, the degenerate brother, and various friends and hangers-on. Two small boys precipitate the feeling of troubled waters through their own minor tragedies, but it takes a suicide to bring them all to their senses. In spite of the decadent note, the story is so ably told that it makes absorbing reading, except when too-too-British politics intrude. $2.50

February 3

Baldwin, Faith ENCHANTED OASIS Farrar & Rinehart

Always trim - somewhat more complicated than usual - a glamorous setting of Palm Springs. An English girl, quiet and unsophisticated, goes there to visit her elderly aunt and runs into unexpected complications. Blackmail, murder, suicide, heart-break - but it comes out right in the end. Good Baldwin, though not her best - geared to her rental library fans. $2.00

February 7

O'Connor, Jack BOOM TOWN Knopf

Might sell to western fans, though it has more substance than that would indicate. The story of a prospector, cursed with bad luck, who can't believe it when he strikes it rich - and almost throws his chances away. But he runs up against a young and lonely assayer, and together they follow through and find themselves headed for fabulous riches. Just how a mining boom gets under way, the effect on all who have a part in it, the building of a boom town, makes a good yarn, with enough of adventure and romance to weld it into a story. $2.50

Southgate, D. H. ROOT IN THE ROCK Knopf

A rather unusual story of a Brahmin woman, brought up in the tradition of her caste, rebelling inwardly at the restrictions, but following through. In her son, her rebellion bears fruit, and he becomes a doctor, following his own dicates, treating all castes alike, accepting the ostracism his own caste imposed on him as a penalty. Then in the third generation, the granddaughter is jilted because her fiancé demands a larger dowry they are unable to give - and determines to lead her own life of service to the lower castes. Contains many of the facts of *Mother India* in story form - a contrast of the new ways and the old - a finger pointing to the penetration of the outer world to the inner recesses of India, establishing that "root in the rock" which may ultimately split the rock apart. Reads well, but the subject matter destines it for the more serious fiction market. $2.50

February ~~8~~ 15

French, Chauncey Del RAILROADMAN Macmillan

This bears all the earmarks of autobiography. If fiction, it is handled so convincingly that it might well get a plus sale in the other field. A definite contribution to the intimate picture of the career of railroading, within the ranks, as shown in the life of one man, who went into railroading through telegraphy at 15, and was recently retired at seventy. Not concerned with the larger picture - the part the railroad played in the building of a country - except by implication. The first part is the job, first and last; the last half deals in passing with his personal life, his second marriage and the careers of his sons. Good - though limited in market. $2.50

February 14

Bernstein, Aline THE JOURNEY DOWN Knopf

A woman prominent in theatrical circles through the field of stage design writes what is evidently autobiographical in fiction form - a segment of her inner life, set down rather hysterically. The book falls into a half dozen parts, tied together because they relate to one phase or another of her relations with a younger man, a coming author. (1) The meeting on the boat, and the immediate power of attraction. (2) A day in England, spent together at a cottage in the Lake country. (3) Back to New York, subjective handling of conversations, the theatre only as it intrudes upon her daily life, the break, for which he is responsible, a last scene in the hospital where suicide is implied and a reconciliation made with life. A book without names - He and She medium, with an intimate inner picture, no external action, a flash here and there into the lives of two well-known people, unabashedly personal in detail, elliptical only in construction as a novel. Can't see general interest. Certainly many will feel it in questionable taste. Not justified as was *Duet In Discord* by method of handling. $2.00

Herman, Yuri TONIA Knopf

The story of an evolution of a girl who has drifted through her youth, satisfied with second bests and sorry for herself, into a woman with capacity for responsibility in the Soviet organization of which she becomes a part. Not a convincing book, nor one that consistently holds the interest, for there is no sympathy created for the heroine, who even in her transformation into a useful member of society is unable to emerge wholly from her self-absorption. There is skill in the handling of detail; the portraits of her two husbands are dealt with in uncompromising style. The story is uneven in both interest and manner. $2.75

February ~~18~~ 16 3/23/38

Keck, Maud MRS. BLAIR Harper

Superior woman's fiction, upper grade light romance, with an unusual setting. The opening gives a clever and mystifying build-up of Mrs. Blair, foremost painter of Chinese life, and leads one to expect more than the story unfolds. There is perhaps too much of the culture of the East; Mrs. Blair is not always as intriguing as you are told she is, nor are her much touted indiscretions particulary indiscreet. In the last analysis it is a love story pure and simple, with some wise and witty writing, and ingenious descriptions - and it holds the interest throughout. $2.50

February 17

Walsh, Maurice THE DARK ~~HORSE~~ Rose Stokes

An Irishman in Scotland's wars against the Covenanters tells the romantic story of the two girls he and his buddy rescued and of their fates. Somehow, no matter how many stories one reads of the always confusing struggles for the rights of the exiled prince, of the strife of Highlander against Highlander, and Highlander against Lowlander, of Montrose and Graham of Claverhouse and the rest of them, the purpose of it all never seems quite clean cut, but the glamour of it seldom fades. There is perhaps too much of battle - though Walsh tells of struggle preeminently - and not enough of romance, but the story of the girl rescued from the stocks of Aberdeen, and the well-born lady rescued from the tower where her father held her to force her marriage with one she did not love, is implicit with more of romance than is told. They both loved the Irishman, but he scarcely realized it, nor realized where his love and where his loyalty were placed, until Fate brought a hand. Not a wholly satisfying story, but Maurice Walsh has a way with him. $2.50

February 21

Curtis, James YOU'RE IN THE RACKET, TOO Knopf

The pot calls the kettle black all around the block in this hard-boiled story of a burglar and his moll, the fence who was a barber as well, of a little manufacturer who bogled not over planning to cheat the public and his own partners, of the youth who planned to marry the old man's daughter and butter his bread for life, but who kept a floozy on the side, of the old man's wife who had her gigolo, etc. etc. Not easy reading, for it is written in the vernacular of the underworld, and the London underworld at that. $2.50

February 24

Manning-Sanders, Ruth ELEPHANT Stokes

* A sentimental but likable story of an elephant, Lightfoot Laura, and her keeper, Clem, and what happens to their friendship when loves comes to both of them. The circus pony, Sugar, and the bareback rider, Belinda, are disrupting forces, but when Fate separates them through Belinda's engagement and Sugar's death, the old cronies are more firmly knit together than ever before. An unusual story, told against the background of a second-rate English travelling circus. $1.50

February 25

Greig, Maysie STOPOVER IN PARADISE Doubleday, Doran

Cicely wins a slogan contest and the prize is a stay in a fashionable Florida hotel and $5,000. It isn't all fun, for she is ignored or laughed at by the socialites she yearns to know, but the wheels of action start moving, and two men and an attempted murder and kidnapping involve her beyond her depth. But it all works out to the right end and Cicely gets her man. Rental libraries. Tripe. $2.00

Sitwell, Edith I LIE UNDER A BLACK SUN Doubleday, Doran

A strange and difficult book. The inexplicable story of Jonathan Swift, Stella and Vanessa is here translated into fiction, placed in the 20th century (though time is vague and rather meaningless), and altered in some major details. None of the characters emerge as real people. Swift's (called Hare in the novel) inner explanation of his relations with Stella (Anna) is that he feared his madness.

But the whole shapes itself not unlike a dream. The book is overwritten, artificial, obscure. The sub-plot of Susan Daw and the lover who was killed in the war bears little relation with the whole. This is Miss Sitwell's first novel. It is not a success. $2.50

February 25

Berg, Curt THE BLUE DRAGOONS Putnam

The story is so deeply buried in the meticulous account of the life and program of a Lapp regiment that at the close one has only just discovered that the story has a certain half-formed unity. A young officer, Wolmar, falls in love with his brother Douglas' bride. Knowing she cannot safely bear a child, she still risks the danger, for the sake of carrying his child, and dies in childbirth. Wolmar sends in his resignation. That is the story - spun thin over the length of a normal novel, and laden down with a detailed - and sometimes interesting - picture of the life of the dragoons. $2.50

MYSTERIES, WESTERNS AND THRILLERS

February 1

Swain, Virginia (Title uncertain - see next issue) Farrar & Rinehart

A horror story with a good old-fashioned fantastic ending. A young doctor, recovering from a broken heart and an illness, finds a new love in the West Indies, but is unable to rescue her from her guardian. Two inexplicable deaths - the strange truth about the girl and her guardian - her death. A nice job. $2.00

NOTE: Selection of title has been put up to several booksellers. To be announced later.

February 2

McCloy, Helen THE DANCE OF DEATH Morrow

A somewhat new angle on detective yarns, for the murder of a prominent socialite, through an overdose of reducing medicine, is solved by a psychiatrist attached to the New York police department. By concentrating on the accidents that occur during the case he is able, not only to prevent the murderer from a second crime, but find the motive that has been so lacking. Good reading. $2.00

February 25

Bagby, George MURDER ON THE NOSE Doubleday, Doran

Inspector Schmidt of the New York police, and his man Friday, learn plenty about radio investigating the death of a bad singer, and uncover more about drug smuggling and two subsequent deaths. Not top notch. (Note shift from Covici, Friede to Doubleday, Doran) $2.00

Gore, William THE MYSTERY OF THE PAINTED NUDE Doubleday, Doran

* Inspector Penk of Scotland Yard wades through much art discussion in trying to solve the identity of a man murdered with a red pencil. Plenty of suspects turn-abouts and amusing reading. An amateur sleuth, an art critic, finds the answer. $2.00

February ~~or March~~

Makin, William J. QUEER MR. QUELL McBride

Fairish story in which Peter Queel, racing driver, proves to be also "Atticus" whose thefts have annoyed Scotland Yard for some time. He manages to substantiate the dual identity, clear Atticus name, and escapes once again. $2.00

MUST BOOKS
Non-Fiction

January 13

Farson, Negley TRANSGRESSOR IN THE TROPICS Harcourt, Brace

* *The Way of Transgressor* is passport to any book written by Negley Farson - at least until he proves otherwise. And this new volume, fragmentary though it may seem, will be no disappointment. It is composed of a series of brief articles on South America, but taken as a whole they form a pattern, made vivid by Farson's personality and charm. One of the sections make thoroughly entertaining reading for anyone who is familiar with the types of travelers on cruise ships. Other chapters deal with individual dictators (who do not come out so badly), political aspects of our South American neighbors, something of the social and economic conditions, and bits about bull-fights, cock fights, architecture and so on. Not only South America, but glimpses of the Barbadoes, Trinidad, and so on. Good reading. $2.50

January 17

Lockhart, R. H. Bruce A SON OF SCOTLAND Putnam

* Lockhart has turned back the leaves to his own boyhood and youth in Scotland, and given us the groundwork for the checkered career that has been his. One sees him as a school boy, with all of life centering around Rugby football, and classwork running amook in competition. One sees him enjoying to the full holidays in his beloved Highlands, his mother's old home, fishing and tramping. One gets glimpses of his family life, against the background of successive schools where his father was head-master. The book is chronological in arrangement, and reads as the early chapters of an autobiography, delightful, human, personal - in so far as it goes, but not as intimate and lacking in reticence as the books dealing with his years of diplomacy. A definite part of a complete picture, and a book all Lockhart enthusiasts will like. $3.00

January 20

Chase, Stuart THE TYRANNY OF WORDS Harcourt, Brace

The recent article, *The Tyranny of Words*, in Harper's, has created sufficient interest to act as an added incentive to sales on the book - that plus Stuart Chase's loyal following would seem to insure wide sales for this thoroughly scholarly study of the science of the meaning of words, and its involvement in every facet of life today. He has a genius for bringing together in thoroughly readable and popular form, controversial material, arguments based on real erudition and sound practical information on a subject hitherto shelved for scholars. Faced with the challenge of variations in meaning and comprehension, he sets out to show wherein lie the pitfalls, to indicate paths of research, to prove how little is the distance we have gone along those paths. He is fairly abstract, when it comes to cures; concrete when it comes to dangers. And he has started the ball rolling and introduced a word familiar chiefly to scholars, which will doubtless take its place in common parlance, - semantics, the science of meaning. $2.50

March 1 ~~February 2~~ March BoM

Dinesen, Isak OUT OF AFRICA Random House

* The author of *Seven Gothic Tales* - presents here reminiscences of twelve years on a coffee farm in Africa, at the foot of the Ngong Hills. Rarely does a book on a remote country convey so fully the feeling of the country and the people. This is a leisurely book - quiet in spirit; it deals with everyday happenings and centers the interest mainly on the native "squatters" on her farm, her servants, her "chef" Kamante, and reveals the remarkable insight into this wary race, soon staunch in their admiration and gratitude. Anecdotal - incidental - in character, but it is the manner of telling that gives it such rare charm, the fluency and ease and delightful wit and subtlety, which characterized her *Seven Gothic Tales*. $2.50

February 4

Conqueror of the Seas ~~Both~~ Literary Guild February

Zweig, Stefan ~~LORD OF LIFE AND DEATH~~: *The Story of Magellan* Viking

*** A superb piece of reconstruction, intensely interesting first as a record of one of the greatest achievements in human history, and second, as a live picture of a tragic figure, Magellan, lonely and misunderstood and cheated at the end of the reward in recognition of the stupendous and courageous task he had envisioned and achieved. Fascinating reading, and enlightening as a minutely detailed picture of the problems faced and met, from the first step to the last. A book which will last - a book which should have a plus sale for boys and girls, as well as for all adults who revel in adventure, in recreating a fragment of almost forgotten history. Thirty two illustrations. February selection of the Literary Guild. $3.50

High Spots

THE HIDDEN LINCOLN, by W. H. Herndon (Viking); AFRICAN HUNTER, by Bror von Blixen Finecke (Knopf). See below for reports.

PROBLEMATICAL BOOKS - *Non-Fiction*

January 5

Stark, Freya BAGHDAD SKETCHES Dutton

Travels and visits in Iraq towns, deserts and seaports in 1931. She gives a picture of the daily life in home, market, mosque, prophesying change as Western influences seep through. She records her observations intelligently, giving vivid word pictures of a passing scene. Market - anyone interested in the Near East and in travel with desire to understand the people and their way of life. Illustrated with photographs. $3.50

Announcing new edition of

Hosie, Lady Dorothea PORTRAIT OF A CHINESE LADY Morrow

Of particular and timely interest today. Originally published in 1930 at $5.00. Republished now at $3.00

Federal Writers' Project of W P A THE ITALIANS OF NEW YORK Random House

(Repeated from page 486 - October 15 issue). "Here, as in the other W P A books, is presented one phase of American life, - history, folklore, scenery, cultural backgrounds, social and economic trends, racial factors, etc. The Italians comprise 15% of New York's population, and their history dates back to immigration in 1880. Their share in the city's development, the part they played in business activity, in social life, religion, orders, festivals. Their cultural interests

and entertainments. Their influence on American art and music. Finally, their contribution to social work, education, hospitalization, the press. Not for a general market, but for social study groups, libraries, sectional groups. Material contributed by different writers, the tone throughout uniform, a straight reporting job. Not for light reading. Limited in interest outside New York. $2.00

February
~~January~~ 10

Middleton, Scudder DINING, WINING AND DANCING IN NEW YORK Dodge

"A more or less straightforward guide to Manhattan's restaurants, night clubs, hotel supper rooms and "drink-and-look *boites'* frequented by café society and others, containing much information relating to costs and customs likely to prove of help to after-dark explorers in quest of gastronomic excitement and novelties, dancing and other entertainment" - sums this up neatly. Includes three haunts of café society, ten restaurants of premier order, a briefer cataloguing of others. American and English - foreign - bars - after theatre entertainment - the Village - the big hotels - Swing and the best Swingsters - the all night places. Food, drink, highlights and prices. Amusing introduction by Lucius Beebe. Designed for out-of-towners primarily. $1.75

Lehmann, John PROMETHEUS AND THE BOLSHEVIKS Knopf

Sounds better than its reads, for it is a bit on the dull side. The author makes a tour of Soviet Georgia and finds it a wonderful place. The Georgians are a mixed race; now united in communism they seem to be one big, happy family. This part of the Soviet Union stands a chance to play an important role because of the oil wells near Baku. Under Soviet régime, the author finds great improvements, - collective farming a success, housing conditions bettered, education universally available, writers subsidized, etc. Illustrated. $3.75 (?)

January 11

Crabites, Pierre VICTORIA'S GUARDIAN ANGEL Dutton

This is a study of Baron Stockmar, not a full-fledged biography, but a real contribution to Victoriana in the careful analysis of the contribution Stockmar made to the period. With the death of Charlotte, Leopold sent Stockmar to the child Victoria, and later he went as tutor and mentor to Albert. Discreet, unassuming, he never appeared publicly as dictator, but actually he could be called the godfather of Victorianism. He instilled so deeply his theories of moral standards, of the importance of keeping scandal from the royal family, of Victorian tenets. Indirectly, he laid the groundwork for Edward's hatred of things German. A greater influence than generally recognized, even by such students of the period as Benson. $3.00

January ~~12~~ 17

McKenzie, Vernon THROUGH TURBULENT YEARS McBride

Another foreign correspondent interprets the European scene, and his book is interesting in that it gives sidelights on personalities and events, personal experiences of the author with Hitler, Mussolini and others. Superifical, however, and at its close you know little more than when you started, but you do know that in Germany wheat flour is mixed with corn and potato flour, that people are rationed on cream and butter, that clothes are made of wood fibre, that saving of bottles, tins, bones, toothpaste tubes, etc. is compulsory. Espionage is rampant - he illustrates with various stories. He discusses propaganda and the press, but contributes little that is new. His explanations seem mere opinion, not facts, and in talking of England he quotes other opinions. Easy reading, but lacks the fire and style and penetration that made a best seller of *Inside Europe*. $2.75

January 17

Quennell, Peter (notes and foreword) Dutton
THE PRIVATE LETTERS OF PRINCESS LIEVEN TO PRINCE METTERNICH - 1820-1826

These letters were discovered in 1917, but held for another 19 years because of the pledge to keep them unpublished for a definite period of time. The wife of the Russian ambassador to London had met Metternich prior to her residence in London and carried on a liaison with him, semi passionate, semi diplomatic. From that time to the time of his remarriage, they corresponded, she acting as intermediary in all sorts of matters. The letters reveal her as power - loving, malicious, lascivious, clever, ruthless. She discusses shamelessly George IV, Wellington, Castlereagh, Canning; the events of the time, the attempted divorce of Caroline, the cabal against Canning. Full of court gossip, intrigue; vivid picture of period which coincides with *And So - Victoria.* $3.75

Wolfe, W. Beran SUCCESSFUL LIVING Farrar & Rinehart

Dr. Beran Wolfe was killed in a motor accident, but left this manuscript behind, virtually finished. Simple and straithforward ideas on successful living, based on many years practice as a successful psychiatrist. He shows how human beings can achieve social maturity by contributing to the well-being of others through tolerance and understanding. Work, society, sex and leisure - these were the spokes of life's wheel, and education, health, religion and objectivity made the wheel turn smoothly. A readable book with a workable philosophy, not too technical for the layman. Should prove of constructive value. $2.00

January 18

Squire, Sir John THE HONEYSUCKLE AND THE BEE Dutton

Memoirs of an editor, poet, essayist, novelist. On a walking trip from London to Devonshire, familiar territory from student days in Cambridge, he gives expression to his random thoughts, memories evoked, events of the journey. Thought the blurb suggests that here are reminiscences of the literati, the names are but mentioned in passing, and only Saintsbury and Mussolini are recorded at any length. But you do meet - through him - a hobo, a barmaid, a farmer, a priest; you spend a night outdoors with an old friend; you share philosophy, literary criticism, dreams, a bit of fiction, antics past and present. Objective (amazingly little of the first person singular), original, quiet, with a pleasant charm of England and no hint of sentimentality. $3.00

~~January 19~~ February 16

Fritts, Frank & Gwinn, Ralph W. FIFTH AVENUE TO FARM Harper
A Biological Approach to the Problem of the Survival of our Civilization

A long-winded sub-title, and a bit long-winded in treatment. There is none of the light touch we have come to associate with the "back to the farm" books. Nothing of personal or anecdotal treatment. Merely what the sub-title indicates, a biological and scientific approach to the problem of where our future lies, what is to supply the brains and blood and tissue of a future generation, etc. The authors indicate, now from one angle, now another, that the city dweller is lowering the birth rate, the country dweller raising it, therefore it behooves the best blood of the city to get back to the country. $3.00

January 19

Shepard, Jean L. HUMAN NATURE AT WORK Harper

A fair book only, the importance of which rests largely on the author's position in personnel work at R. H. Macy. Illuminating but over-optimistic viewpoint on management philosophy towards abilities of employees. Cases classified under interview, new employee, criticism, ambition, personnel training for executives, etc. Stresses strategic position of the straw boss in building of morale for sales production. Of interest chiefly for department store executives, etc. $2.50

January 23

Eshleman, Lloyd W. MOULDERS OF DESTINY Covici, Friede

Comprehensive survey of all Europe and all fields through ten portraits. The writer has chosen these ten because they illustrated the laying of groundwork in the Renaissance of modern trends, neglected factors in modern history, in religion, art, economics, society, politics. He gives the people in relation to their time and their background and does it so adroitly that no knowledge of history is necessary for interest and understanding. In chronological order, from the 14th to the early 17th century he takes up Valla, Charles VII of France, Henry VII of England, Machiavelli, Raphael, Paracelsus, Loyola, Catherine de Medici, Don Juan of Austria and Jan Coen of Holland. $3.00

Baarslag, Karl ROBBERY BY MAIL 2/2. Farrar & Rinehart

A detailed account of all types of swindles perpetrated through the mails and investigated by the postal inspectors simply because one small part of the theft involved a three cent stamp. Fake investments - bad checks sent by mail - lottery swindles involving 1 to 5 billion dollars a year, the unclaimed estate type of swindle, Mexican gold lures, medical frauds, birth,marriage and death rackets, insurance company frauds, wildcat oil wells, catchpenny rackets, on and on, from a fake cigar to a pedigreed dog. The book closes with a brief history of the Postal Inspector service, the head of which gave Baarslag free access to their files. Every step is case history. $2.50

~~January 24~~ 2/11

Herndon, William H.(papers of) THE HIDDEN LINCOLN Viking
Edited by Emanuel Hertz, with an introduction by Dr. John T. Finley

** An exciting contribution to the Lincoln library and a book with real news value. Herndon was Lincoln's law partner, and - if he had lived - would have been fittingly termed Lincoln's Boswell. He collected letters, interviews, records, notes for a life of Lincoln, and acted as his literary executor, with power of release for other biographers. Hertz has brought to light, from Huntington Library the material he had collected. It reveals Herndon as a devoted friend and admirer, who nonetheless knew his man (particularly in the pre-Washington days) and who did not hesitate to recognize Lincoln's mother's illegitimacy, Lincoln's mental instability at times, his confessed lack of love for his wife. And so on. Amazing tidbits - gossipy but never malicious - grand reading. Illustrated. $5.00

January 25

Rukeyser, Muriel U.S. I Covici, Friede

The main poem of this collection is a long narrative poem dealing with the construction of the Gauley Bridge tunnel in West Virginia, where the capitalists committed mass murder by sanctioning its continuance. She tells the tragic story through various participants, and some of the evidence of the trial is included. Can't see that it is poetry, either in form or substance. Shorter poems less artificial. Most of the material definitely left wing. $2.00

January 25

Berkov, Robert STRONG MAN OF THE EAST: Houghton, Mifflin
The Story of Chiang Kai-Shek

This is an important book, though too close to the facts and the man for the objectivity that the definitive book will some day achieve. However, for immediate interest and news value, this is a contribution, disappointing in that it stops short of the present "undeclared war" with Japan. The straightforward, factual account of the life of Chiang Kai-Shek, with the known facts marshalled in chronological order, and enough of interpretation of his personality and motives to convey a fairly crisp and clear picture of the east's leading figure. An opportunist, yes, but with reason underlying mere momentary advantage or personal kudos. Little of his personal life, though due credit is given to his wife. The kidnapping episode is convincingly presented and explained. Good background material for those interested in the problem of the Far East. $3.00

Announcing for January 25

Moore, Ernest Carroll THE STORY OF INSTRUCTION - VOL. II Macmillan

This second volume deals with the Church, the Renaissance, the Reformation. Primarily for college libraries, classroom use, large public libraries. $4.00

Mitchell, Joseph MY EARS ARE BENT Sheridan House

A series of not very important interviews by a feature writer of the World Telegram. It has an undeniable lowbrow lure, with the human interest stuff presented in slangy, popular, fast-paced lingo. He proves his contention that the most interesting people, so far as talk is concerned,are "anthropologists, farmers, prostitutes, psychiatrists, and an occasional bartender." He presents a collection of idiosyncrasies, quite a gallery - strip teasers, ballon dancers, Sally Rand, Negro revivalists, Father Divine, marihuana smokers, voodoo ritualists, bums of the Bowery, Coney Island, etc., and a collection of oddities. Some may like it - but not your conservatives. $2.50

January 27

Mordaunt, Elinor SINABADA Greystone

A literary autobiography, of a woman against whom the cards were stacked. The story of personal honesty and courage. Badly equipped with a frail body, the author has been forced to make her own way and earn a living for herself and her son. Australia - the start of her writing - its slow development - her world travels - her troubles with publishers, men and money, all told in calm retrospect, spiced with a joy in living, after the fight to live. Interesting, with certain inspirational overtones. $2.75

January 28

Dow, David M. AUSTRALIA ADVANCES Funk & Wagnalls

An enlightening book, for that presumably limited market interested in Australia. Surprisingly enough, the writer shows us a country well ahead of our own in meeting, facing and solving labor problems like our own, economic difficulties that we are still fighting. He gives a cleaner bill of health to Australia's beginnings than most historians; he briefly summarizes her physical characteristics; he traces her checkered career; and he concentrates on the labor and tariff and economic problems and the social policy on which Australia is launched. Australia is making a definite and constructive contribution and deserves to be studied from many angles. $2.00

January 31

O'Brien, Brian BEATING ABOUT THE BUSH Lee Furman

A 21-year old English youth goes to Duala, East Africa, as assistant to a bullying trader, his only congenial companion another young Englishman who lasts only a short time. The Africa he presents is that of the sensational movies, with bad natives and bad elephants, malaria, shark hunting, gorillas, witch doctors and pygmies. He quarrels with his boss, is sent on a dangerous trip, eventually leaves and joins a French firm. During this period he takes a 16-year old girl of mixed blood as mistress, and when he returns to the coast, sends her to a convent. A bit on the cheap side. $2.50

Tietz, Esther Bogen & Weichert, Charles K. THE ART AND SCIENCE OF MARRIAGE Whittlesey

Possibly this is a bit less generalizing than the usual book in this field, and the approach is scientific, but simple enough for the layman. From the angle of the physical, the authors approach the whole problem of marriage. They go in great detail into each part of the human body, pointing up the contribution made to the physical aspects of marriage. The separate stops are discussed - the importance of complete understanding and cooperation, if marriage is to be a success physically and psychically. Other aspects of marriage touched upon only in relation to this. ~~$3.00~~ 2.50

~~January 13~~ February 10

Frolov, Prof. Y. P., M.D. PAVLOV AND HIS SCHOOL: *The Theory of Conditioned Reflexes* Oxford

The historical origin and development of Pavlov's method, the chief stages in the theory of higher nervous activity, with descriptions of various experiments on dogs, revealing the scientific proof of conditioned reflexes. The book contains a biographical sketch of Pavlov, which consists chiefly in dates and scientific information, rather than warm human interest and personality. A book of interest chiefly to physiologists and psychologists, not to the general public. Dull reading. $4.00

Hanson, Simon G. UTOPIA IN URUGUAY 1/27/38 Oxford

Here is a South American country that has conceived an ideal of state-owned and operated industry and achieved a large measure of success. This is a detailed account of the development, the events leading up to it, facts and figures. He gives the economic background, discusses the State Insurance Bank, the Monopoly of Electric Light and Power, the Railways and Port Authority, the State Banks, labour legislation, social security, etc. Their social legislation led most of the world. But so far the country remains poor and illiterate, ill-equipped to carry out the leaders' ideals. A book of limited interest, to those who desire a rounded picture of South America, and to those who follow social trends. $3.50

Lemaitre, Georges FOUR FRENCH NOVELISTS 4-14 Oxford

The assistant professor at McGill takes up Proust, Gide, Girardoux and Paul Morand, and gives well-rounded, lucid studies of each one. But somehow the sketches lack the brilliance of critical commentary one expects from the French. On Proust, he contributes little new to those familiar with other treatments of his work and contribution to literature (particularly Leon Pierre-Quint). There is less competition in the other fields, and his contribution is fresher. A thorough, sober piece of work, important for college reference, but not stimulating reading. $3.50

January 27

Menzies-Wilson, Jacobine & Lloyd, Helen — AMELIA — Oxford

* Period piece in the biography of a woman at home in many world and interested in all of them. Long-time friend of the famous Gurneys of Earlham, convert to the Quaker faith, wife and widow of the painter John Opie, a fashionable and internationally famous writer, a collector of famous people - she was, all-told a likeable and vital sort of person, unusual in her adaptability and her genius for friendship. Specialized interest, definite Quaker appeal. The period is the last part of the 18th century; she was at home in artistic and literary London, official Paris and Quaker Norwich. She knew everyone and divided her time between the fashionable world and the Quaker life, until she became Plain Friend. A picture of an unusual woman and an interesting background. $5.00

Partridge, E. Joyce — BABY'S POINT OF VIEW — March 17. — Oxford

The parents who swallow this bait, hook and sinker, will certainly find themselves at odds with most baby doctors and baby nurses today. And one questions whether the author's contention that the method advocated will not spoil the baby can be true. For after all, singing or talking or rocking a baby to sleep, refusing to let a baby cry, etc. etc., soon shows the way of least resistance to Master Baby. However, it is a challenge to the modern parent to guard the baby's personality from the start. And he makes his arguments sound plausible. $1.00

Tillotson, Geoffrey — ON THE POETRY OF POPE — Oxford

This is not for the general public, but specifically for students of the period in which Pope wrote. A careful and scholarly study of Pope from the angles of his essential originality and his contribution to his time, his "correctness", his diction, his debt to the classics, his satire as part of a whole picture, his art and the steps by which he achieved it. $3.00

~~February 3~~ April 4 -

Ferber, Nat J. — A NEW AMERICAN — Farrar & Rinehart

The Life Story of Justice Salvatore A. Cotillo

Purely political and in no sense personal, this biography of the Italian-American's staunchest friend and advocate. Cotillo has just been reelected to the New York Supreme Court, to carry on his fight for public welfare, for Italian naturalization, for better immigrant laws; his struggles against exploitation and trickery and Fascism. He is the defender of the underdog and the little man, and a close friend of Al Smith and LaGuardia. Market for this primarily local. ~~$3.00~~ 2.50

Intro Alfred E. Smith.

February 11

Greenwall, Harry J. — THE FACE OF FRANCE — Funk & Wagnalls

This travel book on France clips along at a fast pace, is breezy and entertaining and informative. For the tourist who plans to travel in France, looking for the byways instead of main travelled roads and tourist attractions, this book will be helpful and appealing. The author discusses the people in the different sections, gives a picture of village life, information about food and wines and where to find the best. He talks of towns and their stone houses, of walled cities, of pilgrim's shrines, of walking and climbing in order to get the best views and meet the most interesting people. History and legend as background. $2.50

PLEASE NOTE THESE CHANGES IN TITLE, DATE AND PRICE

		Page
Griffith, Wyn	- THE WOODEN SPOON (Dutton) Definite date 1/10/38	507
Foldes, John	- I'M GETTING MARRIED (Farrar & Rinehart) Postponed to 1/6/38	519
Williams-Ellis, A.	- THE BIG FIRM (Houghton, Mifflin) from January to 2/8/38	502
Anthony, K.	- LOUISA MAY ALCOTT (Knopf) from 2/1/38 to 2/7/38	546
Hotep, I. M.	- LOVE AND HAPPINESS (Knopf) from 10/18/37 to 1/24/38	463
Nathan, G. J.	- THE MORNING AFTER THE FIRST NIGHT (Knopf) from 1/10 to 1/3	545
Nathan, Robert	- WINTER IN APRIL (Knopf) from 1/18 to 1/10/38	537
Breed, Dana	- THE LATE COLONEL JUDD (Lippincott) from 1/15/38 to 1/13/38	521
Haines, E. I.	- THE EXQUISITE SIREN (Lippincott) from 12/2/37 to 2/17/38	520
Omura, Bunji	- THE LAST GENRO (Lippincott) from 1/13/38 to 3/?/38	527
Lanham, Edward	- ANOTHER OPHELIA (Longmans, Green) from January to 2/2/38	522
Kern, Marjorie D.	-GETTING ALONG TOGETHER (McBride) from 11/15/37 to 1/12/38	506
Snow, Edgar	- RED STAR OVER CHINA (Random House) definite date 1/6/38	507
Craig, Capt.J.	- DANGER IS MY BUSINESS (Simon & Schuster) from late January to March ?	528

THE NEW YORK OFFICE CALENDAR - JANUARY 1st TO 15th

January 3	- Almedingen, E. M. - YOUNG CATHERINE (Stokes)	538
	- Frankau, Gilbert - THE DANGEROUS YEARS (Dutton)	551
	- Nathan, G. J. - THE MORNING AFTER THE FIRST NIGHT (Knopf)	545
January 5	- Dickson, Carter - THE JUDAS WINDOW (Morrow)	523
	- Dunlap, Katharine - LADY BE GOOD (Morrow)	520
	- Rhode, John - BODY UNIDENTIFIED (Dodd, Mead)	542
	- Sale, Richard - IS A SHIP BURNING? (Dodd, Mead)	539
January 6	- Snow, Edgar - RED STAR OVER CHINA (Random House) Book Union January	507
January 7	- Horan, Kenneth - OH PROMISE ME (Doubleday, Doran)	526
	- Kraus, René - THEODORA (Doubleday, Doran)	544
	- Rodocanachi, C.P. - FOREVER ULYSSES (Viking) January selection of the Book-of-the-Month Club	521
January 10	- Nathan, Robert - WINTER IN APRIL (Knopf)	537
January 11	- Beard, Miriam - A HISTORY OF THE BUSINESS MAN (Macmillan)	507
January 13	- Farson, Negley - TRANSGRESSOR IN THE TROPICS (Harcourt, Brace)	557

February ~~15~~ 21

Finecke, Bror von Blixen AFRICAN HUNTER Knopf

* The husband of Isak Dinesen (see page 558) tells of his hunting experiences during 23 years in Africa, leaving the story of the farm to his wife. Here are tales of lion, buffalo, elephant hunts, hunting on horseback, hunting with cheetah, small and large expeditions, including those he arranged for the Prince of Wales. Mishaps, tragedies, escapes, the behavior of the different types of animals, hunting companions, white and native, hunting with camera, and hunting today under the new conditions brought about by the airplane. A good book for the man or woman interested in big game hunting and sport. The two books come within two weeks of each other. Plus sale for both. $3.00

~~February 15~~ March 29

Duckett, Eleanor Shipley THE GATEWAY TO THE MIDDLE AGES Macmillan

The intense concentration on the sixth century limits the market for this to students of the Middle Ages primarily. But it is surprisingly good reading and packed with detailed incident and anecdote, human interest material, and revealing glimpses of the life in city and town and country, in court and monastery and battlefield. Against a carefully drawn background of the historical period, she introduces the contemporary writers, and from letters and records and books written by scholars and pedants and religious men and politicians and leaders she reconstructs the times. Rome, Italy, Germany, Austria, the Near East, France, England. A book for all libraries. $5.00

February 25

Hower, Aline E. SUCCESSFUL LETTER WRITING Doubleday, Doran

Another desk reference book for the first class secretary, who would know how to become a successful letter writer. This deals with business letters. The author discusses the general qualities of a good letter, stresses the trend to the informal letter rather than the stilted letter. Points considered include the point of view of the recipient, the salutation, opening sentence, paragraph and sentence structure, close, framework, length, correct word, salesmanship, and various types of letters. Clear - concise - practical, with exercises and examples throughout. $1.98

Two Books Received Too Late For Inclusion In Earlier Issues

Enters, Angna FIRST PERSON PLURAL Stackpole

Angna Enters, artist and dancer, has twice been awarded a Guggenheim fellowship and has climbed high in the artistic world and won large audiences for her individual style and her painting. It was through her study of movement that she went into the field of dancing. Here she gives an explanation of her ideas and work, the relation between music and painting and history; her travels, performances; her love of Spain and her feelings about the Civil War; her many-sided activities. Full of her personal opinions, but an autobiography of an artist rather than a woman. $4.00

Chamberlain, Samuel BEYOND NEW ENGLAND THRESHOLDS Hastings House

Another of those entrancing books of photographs - this time of interiors, which with their captions, help recreate the past of New England, and make a definite contribution to our feeling of knowing how our forebears lived. Ideal gift book for anyone interested in old houses and antiques. 200 photographs of historical interiors. $4.00